



102 Town Hall Drive | Leland, North Carolina 28451
Phone (910) 371-0148 | Fax (910) 371-1073

The Honorable David Rouzer
US House of Representatives
233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

4/22/2022

RE: Gateway District Utility Resiliency Project

Dear Congressman Rouzer,

We request your consideration in funding the Gateway District Utility Resiliency project in Leland, NC through Community Project Funding from the House Appropriations Committee.

The Gateway District Utility Resiliency project is the relocation of approximately 4,800 linear feet of existing overhead power and telecommunication lines to underground service conduits. The Gateway District project area is located along Village Road between Andrew Jackson Highway and Oakland Avenue, which includes a primary electric utility substation, as well as many basic service businesses, such as grocery stores, medical facilities, pharmaceutical retailers, fuel centers, and restaurants, and approximately four hundred and fifty (450) directly served residential units.

The Gateway District Utility Resiliency project, also known as the Village Road Utility Conversion project, will reduce the risk of power line and telecommunication destruction in a natural disaster, sustain existing businesses, reduce obstructions impacting vehicular crashes with possible fatalities, and potentially attract new businesses to the area. Leland, as part of Brunswick County, has been under a Presidentially declared FEMA emergency ten times since 2010. This mitigation project is critical to the resiliency of our community and its citizens.

The initial scoping, feasibility, and preliminary layout phase of the project was completed in 2019 in conjunction with Duke Energy. The total cost to complete the project is currently estimated at \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000. While we would like to obtain funding to complete the project, we are requesting funding of \$750,000 for the design and engineering portion to move it to shovel-ready status.

On behalf of the Town of Leland, thank you for your time and careful consideration.

Respectfully,

David A. Hollis, Town Manager
dhollis@townofleland.com

Brenda Bozeman
Mayor

Richard Holloman
Councilmember

Bob Campbell
Mayor Pro-Tem

Bill McHugh
Councilmember

Veronica Carter
Councilmember

David A. Hollis
Town Manager



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April 18, 2022
House Appropriations Committee
Community Project Funding

Dear House Appropriations Committee,

I am pleased to announce our support for the consideration of a project within the Town of Leland for Community Project Funding. The Town of Leland wishes to bury the existing overhead power and communication lines on Village Road extending from the U.S. 74/76 Village Road interchange west to a point just beyond the intersection of Oakland Avenue—a distance of approximately 4,800 feet—that we refer to as the Utility Conversion Project.

The purpose of the Utility Conversion Project is to reduce the risk of damage to electric and telecommunication lines that may be caused by natural disasters, attract new businesses and sustain and support the expansion of existing businesses along the Village Road corridor, improve the attractiveness of the Leland business district, increase the value of nearby properties, and reduce vehicular crashes and possible fatalities.

We believe this project would improve resiliency in our vital Gateway District and strongly encourage you to consider this project for Community Project Funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Bozeman", written over a horizontal line.

Brenda Bozeman, Mayor

Brenda Bozeman
Mayor

Bill McHugh
Councilmember

Bob Campbell
Mayor Pro-Tem

Richard Holloman
Councilmember

Veronica Carter
Councilmember

David A. Hollis
Town Manager



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April 18, 2022
House Appropriations Committee
Community Project Funding

Dear House Appropriations Committee,

As Chair of the Town of Leland Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. I am pleased to announce our support for the consideration of a project within the Town of Leland for Community Project Funding. The Town of Leland wishes to bury the existing overhead power and communication lines on Village Road to underground conduit lines through the Utility Conversion Project.

While the primary purpose of the Utility Conversion Project is to reduce the risk of damage to electric and telecommunication lines that may be caused by natural disasters, we believe it is also important to highlight what would be an improved streetscape for the Leland business district. This project would enhance the overall aesthetic of the area and in turn, increase nearby property value thanks to improved lines of sight and protection of service interruptions during natural disasters. The Town has been investing in its open spaces in recent years and streetscapes projects are another big portion of that.

We believe this project has numerous benefits to our community including resiliency and encourage you to consider this project for Community Project Funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Nicole Whiteside". The script is cursive and fluid.

Nicole Whiteside, Chair
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Brenda Bozeman
Mayor

Bill McHugh
Councilmember

Bob Campbell
Mayor Pro-Tem

Richard Holloman
Councilmember

Veronica Carter
Councilmember

David A. Hollis
Town Manager



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House Appropriations Committee
Community Project Funding
04/19/22

Dear House Appropriations Committee,

Please accept this letter of support for the consideration of a project within the Town of Leland for Community Project Funding. The Town of Leland wishes to bury the existing overhead power and communication lines on Village Road extending from the U.S. 74/76 Village Road interchange west to a point just beyond the intersection of Oakland Avenue—a distance of approximately 4,800 feet—that we refer to as the Utility Conversion Project.

The Village Road corridor in Leland serves as the main street in the Town's Gateway District. This area is ripe for redevelopment to support a walkable, mixed-use development that can accommodate residential and commercial needs of the growing community and region. Significant planning with public involvement has been done since 2006 to set the policy direction for the redevelopment of the Gateway District, and the Utility Conversion Project will catalyze redevelopment efforts while building resiliency by reducing the risk of damage to electric and telecommunication lines that may be caused by natural disasters or vehicular accidents.

Thank you for your consideration of this project for Community Project Funding for this vital project in the Town of Leland.

Respectfully,

Bob Penwell
Chair of the Town of Leland Planning Board

Brenda Bozeman
Mayor

Bill McHugh
Councilmember

Bob Campbell
Mayor Pro-Tem

Richard Holloman
Councilmember

Veronica Carter
Councilmember

David A. Hollis
Town Manager

Brunswick County

Emergency Services

(910)253-5383
Phone



(910)253-4451
Fax

April 18, 2022

The Honorable David Rouzer
US House of Representatives
233 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congressman Rouzer,
Brunswick County Emergency Services would like to offer this letter of support for The Town of Leland's Community Project Fund request. The Utility Conversion project would remove a section of high-risk high-priority telephone and electric utility lines from poles and place them underground. The project proposes relocating approximately 4,800 feet of electric and telecommunication lines that may be affected by natural disasters. The location is along Village Road between Andrew Jackson Highway and Oakland Avenue. This area is commonly referred to as the "Gateway District" within the town.

It is our understanding that The Town of Leland has engaged Duke Energy, as well as an engineering firm, to scope the project properly. Brunswick County has been declared under a FEMA presidential declaration ten times since 2010. These mitigation projects are critical to the resilience of our community and its citizens. Brunswick County Emergency Services is pleased to support this initiative by The Town of Leland.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. McIntire", is written over a horizontal line.

David McIntire
Deputy Director – Emergency Management
Brunswick County Emergency Services